

## INFORMATION PAPER

ATZT-JA

4 APR 2008

SUBJECT: Consequences of Being Absent Without Leave (AWOL) and Dropped from the Rolls (DFR)

1. PURPOSE: To provide information to Soldiers about the possible consequences of being AWOL and then dropped from the unit rolls.

2. DISCUSSION:

a. **If you leave your unit without permission, you are violating the law!**

b. Going AWOL, or "absent without leave," means leaving your unit without the permission of someone who is authorized to give you permission. If your squad leader says you can go on leave, but your squad leader does not have the authority to grant leave, **you are AWOL if you go on leave.**

c. If you are gone for over 30 days, your commander will "DFR" or drop you from the rolls. The significance of being DFR'd is that the Army will then issue a warrant for your arrest. If you are pulled over by the police for any reason wherever you are, they will arrest and confine you until an Army representative seeks your release from jail and brings you back to your unit.

d. If you are AWOL for 3 days or less, you can receive 1 month of jail and lose two-thirds of your pay for 1 month at a court-martial.

e. If you are AWOL for 4 to 30 days, you can be jailed for 6 months and lose two-thirds of your pay for 6 months at a court-martial.

f. If you are AWOL for more than 30 days, you can receive 1 year of jail, lose all your pay, and receive a dishonorable discharge at a court-martial. If your AWOL ends because you were apprehended, then you can receive 6 additional months of jail.

g. A conviction at a court-martial is a federal conviction and will be on your military and civilian record. Assuming you are kept in the Army, you will have trouble making rank and earning positions of increased responsibility. If you are discharged from the Army, you will have trouble getting a civilian job.

3. Just because you go AWOL, stay gone for 30 days, and then turn yourself in at one of the Army's Regional Confinement Facilities (RCF) does not necessarily mean you will receive an administrative discharge UP of AR 635-200. **The RCFs can and will send you back to Fort Leonard Wood where you may be subject to punishment under the UCMJ.**

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